

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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November 23, 2004
PR 04-73

ABC AND LOCAL POLICE CITE SEVERAL MINORS AND BUSINESSES FOR UNDERAGE ALCOHOL VIOLATIONS

Inglewood – California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Investigators cited 17 individuals on November 13, 2004 at the USC - University of Arizona Homecoming Football Game in Los Angeles as part of a Special Events Task Force Operation..

14 minors were cited for charges of minor in possession of alcohol, one person was cited for possession of marijuana, one individual was cited for furnishing alcohol to a minor, and another was cited for minor in possession of a false identification (ID).

Manhattan Beach -On November 19, 2004, ABC Investigators along with Manhattan Beach Police Department Detectives conducted a Minor Decoy Operation. Nine premises were visited and there were 4 violations for selling alcohol to minors. The minor decoy was able to purchase alcohol from the following locations:

Sav-On at 2900 Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, Speedi-Mart at 975 Aviation Blvd., Manhattan Beach, El Porto Market at 4103 Highland Ave., Manhattan Beach, and Mr. D's Liquor at 1100 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach.

Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

Under the Minor Decoy operation, the minor must be under the age of 20, must have the appearance of a minor, cannot wear clothes or jewelry that would make them look older, and must answer truthfully if asked their age.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is almost 24 percent, or nearly one in five retail licensees selling to minors.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for the Special Events Operation at the USC-Arizona football game was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.